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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 004300.P002

Total Pages 3

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier Lyle Scheer

Express Mail Label No. EL143568556US

ADDRESS TO: **Assistant Commissioner for Patents**
Box Patent Application
Washington, D. C. 20231

JC554 U.S. PTO
09/547699
04/12/00

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Specification (Total Pages 18)
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claims
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. Drawings(s) (35 USC 113) (Total Sheets 1)
4. Oath or Declaration (Total Pages 5)
 - a. Newly Executed (Original or Copy)
 - b. Copy from a Prior Application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for Continuation/Divisional with Box 17 completed) (**Note Box 5 below**)
 - i. **DELETIONS OF INVENTOR(S)** Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
a. Computer Readable Copy
b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents(s))
9. a. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (where there is an assignee)
 b. Power of Attorney
10. English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. a. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
 b. Copies of IDS Citations
12. Preliminary Amendment
13. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
14. a. Small Entity Statement(s)
 b. Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. Other: _____

17. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No: _____

18. **Correspondence Address**

Customer Number or Bar Code Label

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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 4/12, 2000


Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

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Sharon M. Osofsky
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

April 12, 2000
(Date signed)

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

for

A SERVER NETWORK

Inventors:

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A SERVER NETWORK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of server networks; more
5 particularly, the present invention relates to server networks that operates
using computer controlled processes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Today, factories manufacturing processes are often controlled by the
use of computers or servers or other computer systems. The cost of setting
up these manufacturing facilities is often very expensive. One of the
problems is that each server or computer system must be configured
specifically to perform one or more functions. This requires that each
15 system be programmed individually to perform its desired task.
Programming each machine separately adds additional cost and manpower,
thereby increasing overall costs.

Servers in the manufacturing facilities typically are controlled by a
central system. If communication is interrupted between the control system
20 on the remaining subsystems, factory operations may cease.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A server network is described. In one embodiment, the server network comprises a global master server, a local master server and one or more slave servers. The local master server is coupled to the central master server via a first network and is synchronized to the global master server.

The one or more slave servers are coupled to the local master server via a second network to perform manufacturing tasks to facilitate building products. The global master, local master and slave servers are programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including automatically configurable as a master or server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood more fully from the detailed description given below and from the accompanying drawings of various embodiments of the invention, which, however, should not be taken
5 to limit the invention to the specific embodiments, but are for explanation and understanding only.

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of one embodiment of a server network.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

A server network is described. In the following description, numerous details are set forth, such as distances between components, types of molding, etc. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art, that

- 5 the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form, rather than in detail, in order to avoid obscuring the present invention.

Some portions of the detailed descriptions which follow are presented

- 10 in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-
- 15 consistent sequence of steps leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It has proven convenient at times, principally for

reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like.

It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussion, it is appreciated that throughout the description, discussions utilizing terms such as "processing" or "computing" or "calculating" or "determining" or "displaying" or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

The present invention also relates to apparatus for performing the operations herein. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may comprise a general purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable

storage medium, such as, but is not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, and magnetic-optical disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs), EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, or any type of media suitable for storing electronic
5 instructions, and each coupled to a computer system bus.

The algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized
10 apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below. In addition, the present invention is not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the
15 invention as described herein.

A machine-readable medium includes any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). For example, a machine-readable medium includes read only memory ("ROM"); random access memory ("RAM"); magnetic disk storage media;

optical storage media; flash memory devices; electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.); etc.

5 A Server Network

Figure 1 illustrates a server network. Referring to Figure 1, a global master server 101 is coupled to local master server 102 via network 103. In one embodiment, global master server 101 is located at a central location or at a headquarters, while local master 102 is located in a remote location, such as a factory. Network 103 may comprise the internet, a physical private network, a virtual private network, or any other suitable network infrastructure. In one embodiment, the communication between global master server 101 and local master server 102 is secure. Such security may be obtained by utilizing a standard secure protocol, such as, for example, SSH, over the internet.

In one embodiment, the slaves 104 and local master 102 are at a manufacturing site such that there are multiple slave servers on a single master at the manufacturing site. Each slave has the same basic information as the master but may be configured to a specific different function but may

be configured to a specific different function at the factory. This allows a factory to be set up in which all the servers, such as slaves 104 and local master server 102, to include the same information yet be configured for different functions. Such functions may include building components,

5 boards, servers or other systems, etc.

Also coupled to local master 102 is one or more slaves 104 via local area network (LAN) 105.

Database 106 is coupled to global master server 101. Database 106 includes the software that allows each of slaves 104 to be configured to build 10 the different product as well as to have the software necessary for allowing server to be a global master server or a local master server. In one embodiment, database 106 has a description of the binaries for software that is placed on local master server 102 and slaves 104. In one embodiment, there are numerous descriptions of how a system is built and tested and 15 such software is loaded by the global server 101 onto local server 102.

Global master server 101 and database 106 operate in conjunction to synchronize the software on a local master server 102. By allowing the global master server 101, in conjunction with database 106, to configure other servers, the global master server 101 is able to replicate itself.

In order to set up a factory, local master server 102 is configured by global master 101. In one embodiment, the configuration of local master 102 by global master server 101 is performed by connecting local master server 102 to global master server 101 at the central or headquarters site. At that time, the software stored in database 106 is downloaded into local master server 102. Thus, local master server 102 is built off global master 101. Once the configuration has been completed, local master server 102 may be coupled to network 103 and set up in a remote location.

Each of the servers in the system has two interfaces, a primary interface and the secondary interface. When the primary interface of local master server 102 is connected to the network, local master server 102 automatically configures itself to communicate with the global master server 101. Thus, in this manner, local master server 102 automatically configures itself to operate as a slave with respect to the global master server 101.

In one embodiment, servers built on the global master server 101 automatically generate a key during the build process and their public key is placed on the global master server 101 allowing those servers access to the master server 101. This enables the use of public key encryption to allow for additional security when global master server 101 is communicating with

local master server 102 over network 103. In one embodiment, an administrator may place the key on the master server 101 of a server not built on the global master server 101, thereby allowing such that server to gain access to the global master server 101. The local master server 102, as a slave, uses this key to synchronize itself with the master. If the master server 101 does not have the key, then no synchronization is possible. In one embodiment, the local server 102 contacts global master server 101 using an IP address for the global master server 101. If there is no global master during the bootup process, local master server 102 may take the role of a global master server 101.

Similarly, slaves 104 automatically configure themselves to operate as slaves on the local area in network 105 due to their connection to the secondary interface of local master server 102 via LAN 105. In one embodiment, the connection to LAN 105 is through an ethernet connection.

Thus, local master server 102 synchronizes to the single global master server 101 and a slave, such as slaves 104, as connected to a secondary ethernet connection of a master, such as local master server 102, synchronizes to that master. In this manner, a hierarchical chain of servers may be configured and created.

During the configuration of slaves 104, each of such slaves sends a packet at bootup to the local master 102. In response to that packet, local master server 102 sends a reply that indicates what function the slave is to perform. Using this information, slaves 104 configure themselves to

5 perform that function. In one embodiment, there are multiple types of slaves that may be deployed. For example, one or more slaves may perform a board test in the factory. In another embodiment, one or more servers may perform a system build test, a run-in (burn in), etc.

In one embodiment, subsequent to system configuration, the local

10 master resynchronizes itself with the global master server 101. Similarly, slaves 104 resynchronize themselves with the local master server 102. During such synchronization, data relating to the units currently being built is gathered on a database of the local master server 102 and synchronized with the global master database 106. Data describing how a system is built

15 and tested, is loaded on the global master and synchronized to local masters, such as local master server 102, once a day. In one embodiment, a mirroring tool such as Rsync performs mirroring by checking binaries on both servers and provides a compressed version of the difference in order to update the server for synchronization.

In one embodiment, systems that are built by the build to order server network are issued with a revision code. In one embodiment, if there has been an update to the software, a code associated with the latest version of the software is compared to the revision code on the product (e.g., server). If 5 the revision codes don't match, then the product is not permitted to be released.

It should be noted that the servers in the system can also run stand alone without a connection to the Internet and, thus, are fault tolerant to network problems. In other words, if the connection between local master 10 102 to network 103 is down, the factory can essentially run autonomously. This is the case even though local master server 102 and global master server 101 operate in synch with each other. That is, although local master 102 and global master server 101 may subsequently operate asynchronously, the factory or service center is able to continue operating autonomously.

15 Therefore, such autonomous operation provides for fault tolerance and also reduces the load on the global master server 101.

Similarly, if the local master 102 becomes inoperable, the slaves 104 can still perform their function, and can run autonomously. Also note that a

server can be used to build another server, and therefore, if local master 102 or slaves 104 becomes inoperable, another can be created.

Moreover, the replication ability of the servers allows for numerous servers to be created to perform a specific function and switch in or out

5 depending on their operability. Switching in and out of such servers may be transparent. In one embodiment, a PC monitors all the slaves and determines when a slave becomes inoperable. At such time, reboot operation is performed to allow a replacement server to take over the function of the inoperable server.

10 Whereas many alterations and modifications of the present invention will no doubt become apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art after having read the foregoing description, it is to be understood that any particular embodiment shown and described by way of illustration is in no way intended to be considered limiting. Therefore, references to details of

15 various embodiments are not intended to limit the scope of the claims which in themselves recite only those features regarded as essential to the invention.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A server network comprising:
2 a global master server;
3 a local master server coupled to the central master server via a first
4 network and synchronized thereto; and
5 one or more slave servers coupled to the local master server via a
6 second network to perform manufacturing tasks to facilitate building
7 products, the global master, local master and slave servers being
8 programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including
9 automatically configurable as a master or server based on the interface of the
10 server to which they are coupled.

1 2. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein one of the
2 servers is operable to program another server.

1 3. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein
2 communication over the first network is secure.

1 4. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein
2 communication over the first network is encrypted.

1 5. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein
2 communication over the first network is secured via SSH.

1 6. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein each of the
2 servers operates with respect to the global master server asynchronously
3 when communication via the first network is unavailable and synchronously
4 when communication via the first network is available.

1 7. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first
2 network comprises the Internet.

1 8. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first
2 network comprises a virtual private network.

1 9. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first
2 network comprises a physical private network.

1 10. The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the second
2 network comprises a local area network (LAN).

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A server network is described. In one embodiment, the server network comprises a global master server, a local master server and one or more slave servers. The local master server is coupled to the central master server via a first network and is synchronized to the global master server.

The one or more slave servers are coupled to the local master server via a second network to perform manufacturing tasks to facilitate building products. The global master, local master and slave servers are programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including automatically configurable as a master or server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled.

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(Date signed)

Serial/Patent No.: **** Filing/Issue Date: ****
Client: Cobalt Networks, Inc.
Title: A SERVER NETWORK

BSTZ File No.: 004300.P002

Date Mailed: April 12, 2000

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:

Amendment/Response (____ pgs.)
 Appeal Brief (____ pgs.) (in triplicate)
 Application - Utility (18 pgs., with cover and abstract)
 Application - Rule 1.53(b) Continuation (____ pgs.)
 Application - Rule 1.53(b) Divisional (____ pgs.)
 Application - Rule 1.53(b) CIP (____ pgs.)
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 Application - Design (____ pgs.)
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 Application - Provisional (____ pgs.)
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 Drawings: 1 # of sheets includes 1 figures

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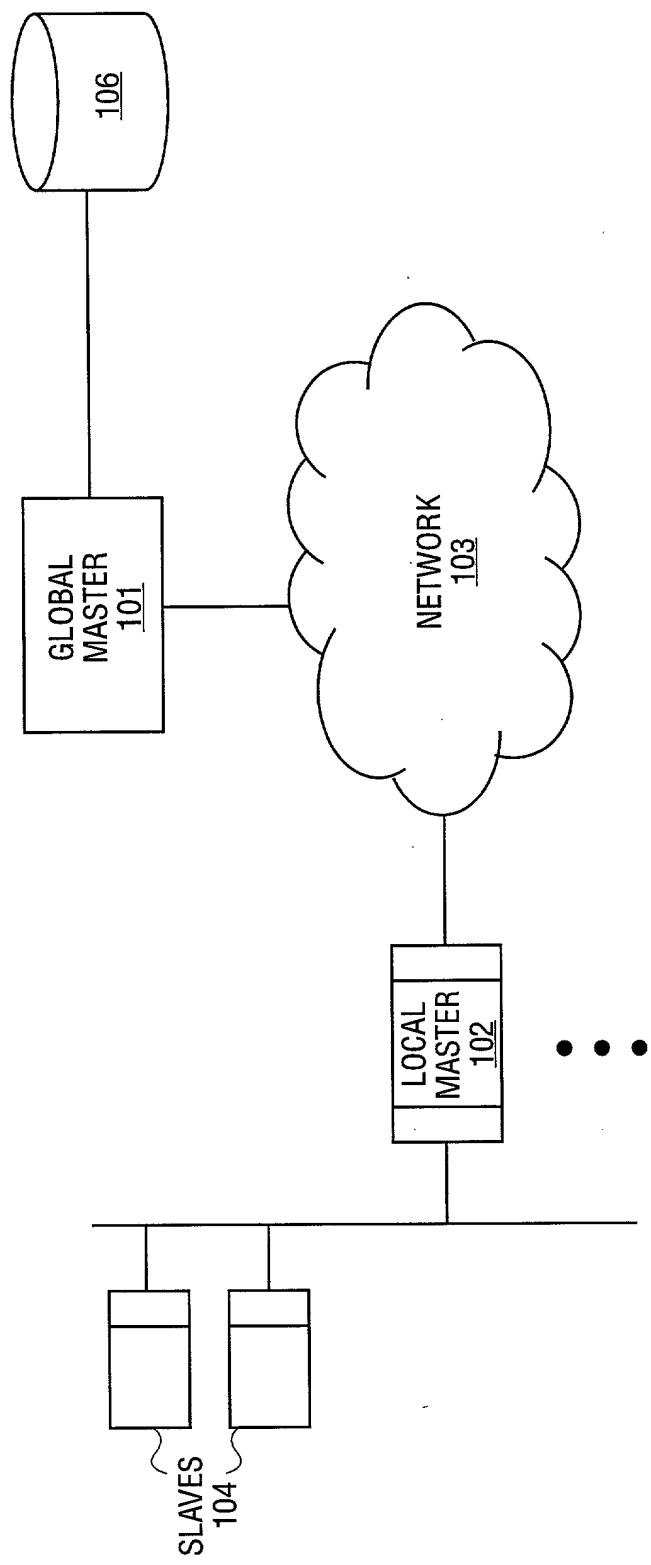
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FIG. 1



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

"A SERVER NETWORK"

the specification of which

X is attached hereto.
— was filed on _____ as
United States Application Number _____
or PCT International Application Number _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

			<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
			Yes	No
			Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Number)	Filing Date
(Application Number)	Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Number)	Filing Date	(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	Filing Date	(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Michael J. Mallie, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and direct telephone calls to Michael J. Mallie, (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Lyle Scheer

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address _____

Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address _____

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address _____

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
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Post Office Address _____

APPENDIX A

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00547699-04-2000

APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclosure information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclosure all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made or record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.